

Serial Number 09/339,036

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bj' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

By: BENJAMIN E. URCIA
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Date: December 21, 2000

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